

Livelihood Working Group

Amman, Jordan

19.04.2018

Meeting Location	EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda	Meeting Date	19.04.2018
Facilitator	Laura Buffoni (UNHCR) Emily Lewis (DRC)	Meeting Time	9:00– 11:00
Minutes Prepared by	Rema'a Alawi (UNHCR)		

Agenda

1. Update on work permits (ILO/MoL/MOPIC-PMU)
2. Discussion on the Livelihoods sector Gender analysis (UNWOMEN)
3. Advocacy on Home based Businesses (JIF)
4. Update on Zataari camp ZOE/mobility (UNHCR)
5. Update from agencies

Update on work permits (ILO/MoL/MOPIC-PMU)

- Cumulatively, 98,792 work permits have been issued/renewed for Syrian refugees in Jordan since 2016. Further breakdown as follows:

	Total permits Jan 2016- March 8, 2018	Total permits Jan 2018- March 8, 2018	Total permits Jan 2017- March 8, 2018 (P4R Y2 Target)
Male	94,779	14,758	59,103
Female	4,013	527	2,899
Total	98,792	15,285	62,002

The increase in issuance of work permits are much less than March 2017.

- Expectation for total work permits for the year of 2018 is 55,000 (EU)/90 000 (WB/P4R).
- Most work permits were issued in the construction sector January 2018 -April 19th 2018 (5,169).

MOPIC meeting: capturing opportunities offered in Jordan in the form of CfW/IBV.

- MoPIC invited UNHCR, a representative of the NGOs (not JIF), ILO, PMU and MoL to discuss the possibility for government to count the job opportunities created through CfW/IBV in the camp as an equivalent to work permits. Noting that the labour law cannot be stretched to define these as work permits, however suggestions for a mechanism that accounts for the “opportunities” available in the camps were asked in this regard.

Advocacy for increased flexibility in work permits for Syrian refugees

- Three policy proposals have been suggested by ILO with the support of WB and UNHCR ahead of the Brussels conference to the Ministry of Labour:

Access the full MoL presentation [here](#).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt Syrians from the policy level of NEEP, pertaining to the manufacturing sector: Syrians are still categorized as migrant workers and the NEEP has a policy of 25% reduction in migrant workers. • Ease access for Syrians for closed sectors: After advertising a vacancy for two weeks on an e-counselling system that ILO is setting up with the MoL, in the absence of Jordanian qualified candidates, Syrians be eligible for the vacancies. • Offer flexible work permits in manufacturing: SME's in the manufacturing sector play large role in hiring, however their needs are often contractual and short-term. Providing a work permit in the manufacturing sector that does not require an employer sponsor (similar to the construction sector) would enable these SMEs to hire base on need, rather than committing to year-long sponsorship models. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The retention of Syrian and Jordanian workers in the manufacturing sector is a concern. Data from ILO Employment Service centres suggests that roughly half of all workers placed by through the centres left their job after the first initial months. The rate of worker turnover is higher among women. - ILO has discussed with the employers that can benefit from the relaxed Rules of Origin (RoO), how to access benefits and improve retention. This year 15% of workers working on production lines are Syrian. This will go up to 25% in 2019. - ILO has placed 208 persons in manufacturing through ILO employment centres. 	
<p>Discussion on the Livelihoods sector Gender analysis (UNWOMEN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the first gender analysis for the Livelihoods sector. - Purpose of this analysis is to how to address the gender issues constantly and consistently in our work. - The Gender analysis framework that has been used as the structure is the “Web of Institutionalisation”. - A policy, organizational and delivery sphere have been explored through the framework. - The draft needs to be finalized soon. Agencies are encouraged to provide feedback to UN Women ASAP. 	<p>Access the content of the analysis here.</p> <p>For feedback/more details contact Frida Khan at frida.khan@unwomen.org</p>
<p>Advocacy on Home based Businesses (JIF document)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the PM to stop direct support to HBB run by Syrians and to make these not authorized, JIF drafted an advocacy paper to emphasize the importance of HBB's from different angles for vulnerable groups especially Syrian refugees. Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of why refugees should be allowed to continue operating HBBs. • The impact of recent directives from the government banning program support for refugee owned HBBs. • The difficulty refugees (and Jordanians) face in pursuing HBB formalization as the registration process has not been streamlined and is not accessible for non-Jordanians. • How loss of HBB opportunities will impact refugee livelihoods especially for women. • Pushing a joint-venture solution to HBB opens potential for exploitation – it also is not a realistic option as there are very few successful examples of Syrian-Jordanian partnerships. - JIF findings include: no evidence that running a home based business disincentives entering the formal workforce; HBB are predominantly run by women who face significant practical and socio-cultural barriers towards obtaining formal wage employment. 	<p>To read the paper, bilaterally email Laura buffoni@unhcr.org and Emily emily.lewis@drc-jordan.org</p> <p>If there are any evidences of joint business/micro/HBB, please share with Ghada Salem at Oxfam GSalem@oxfam.org.uk</p>
<p>Update on Zataari camp ZOE/mobility (UNHCR)</p> <p>Statistical update of what has been done so far by the joint ILO/UNHCR office ZOE:</p>	<p>Access the full findings here.</p>

- 9,407 is the total work permits recorded by the system that manages the entry/exit mechanism.
- Refugee who register work permits at ZOE benefit from a 30 day renewable leave permit, meaning refugees only return once within the 30 day period.
- 96% of work permits are active, 4% are renewed. Only one work permit is recorded as expired, which shows that refugees are returning and renewing.
- Age groups:
 - 61% 18-35 years old.
 - 36% 36-59 years old.
 - 3% 60+ years old.
- Gender: Female 11%, male 89%.
- 30% of the working age population have work permits.
- 85% of work permits are issued in the agriculture sector.

Next meeting date:

May 17th 9:00-11:00 am

Next Meeting Agenda:

TBA